

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re U.S. patent application of

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John Ewant Alfred WICKHAM

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Filing Date: August 2, 2001

Int'l Appln. No. PCT/GB00/00325

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For: **ACTUATING AND LOCKING
MECHANISM FOR A
SURGICAL TOOL**

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Attorney Docket: 000026.00030
MCG/mas

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-referenced patent application, please amend this application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10, 16, and 28.

Please amend claims 3-4, 6-8, 14, 17, 20, 23, and 26-27 as follows:

3. (Amended) An actuating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the cage is adapted such at inward radial movement of the cage causes the actuating device to be placed into its actuated position.

4. (Amended) An actuating mechanism according claim 1, wherein the actuating mechanism further comprises a locking mechanism for locking the actuating device in its actuated position.